

- I. Spiritual growth presupposes life
(in Christ)
- A. God gave us new life
when He raised us
- B. Our new life is connected to
Christ
- II. Our new life needs to grow
- A. We, the living ones, have a part in
our growth
- B. God has a part in our
growth
- III. God gives specifics for our growth
- A. Weeds to pull
- B. Seeds to plant

Col 2:13a;
John 3:16; 3:36; 6:47;
John 10:10; 14:6; 20:31;
Acts 11:18; John 5:24;
Rom 5:18; I John 5:12;
John 1:12-13; II Tim 1:1

Eph 2:4-6; John 15:5

Matt 13:3-9, 18-23

I Pet 2:2; I Cor 3:6

Phil 2:12-13

Rom 8:13; Gal 3:24;
Eph 4:31

Colossians 3:1-17 ¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. ² Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. ³ For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. ⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry. ⁶ God's terrible anger will come upon those who do such things. ⁷ You used to do them when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ In its place you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you. ¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. ¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are all called to live in peace. And always be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Care Group Questions

“Born to be _____”
Text: Col 3:1-17

Pastor Dave Bechtel

October 22, 2006

1. Ever have a “stupid song” stuck in your head? If so, without having it occur now (J), can you recall an the song and the occasion?
2. Read the verses. What is the first word in verse one? What are the implications or assumptions behind that word? If the assumption isn't true about the one reading these verses, what would happen?
3. According to this text, what is the basis of our new life? Can you remember how the “barrel of monkeys” illustration might be relevant here?
4. What are some prepositions in these verses that express aspects of our connection to Christ? Pick one or two and explore them more deeply.
5. If the believer is given new life with Christ, what comes after that? Is the work of God finished after a person is resurrected with Christ?
6. List as many commands to believers as you can find in these verses. How does doing these commands influence the believer's new life?
7. What, in these verses, is God's part in a believer's growth? (Find at least two actions that God takes to grow a believer.)
8. Which of the “weeds to pull” seems most relevant in your spiritual “farm” right now (see verses 5-9)? Share with the group why you chose that one.
9. Which of the “seeds to plant” (12-17) would the Lord have you add to your life at this time?

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